

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising an adherent antimicrobial coating comprising a nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix immobilized on a surface of the article of manufacture, and an antimicrobial metallic material ~~substantially non-leachably~~ bound to the matrix such that the antimicrobial coating does not release biocidal amounts of elutables into the surrounding environment.

26. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix comprises benzalkonium groups.

27. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the antimicrobial metallic material is selected from the group consisting of a metal, a metal salt, a metal complex, a metal alloy, and mixtures thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 27 wherein the metallic material comprises silver.

29. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 27 wherein the mixture comprises silver and copper.

30. (Previously Presented) the article of claim 27 wherein the metal salt is silver iodide.

31. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 31 wherein the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix is crosslinked with a crosslinking agent.



39-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the antimicrobial coating is immobilized on the surface by covalent bonding, ionic interaction, coulombic interaction, hydrogen bonding, or cross-linking.

51. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the antimicrobial coating is immobilized on the surface via a functional group of the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer.

52. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 52, wherein the functional group selected from the group consisting of a thiol group, a hydroxy group, an amine group, a halogen, an epoxy group, an alkyl group, and an alkoxy group.

53. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising an adherent antimicrobial coating comprising a nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix immobilized on a surface of the article of manufacture by covalent bonding, ionic interaction, coulombic interaction, hydrogen bonding, or cross-linking, and

an antimicrobial metallic material ~~substantially non-leachably~~ bound or attached to the matrix such that the antimicrobial coating does not release biocidal amounts of elutables into the surrounding environment.

54. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising an adherent antimicrobial coating comprising a nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix immobilized on a surface of the article of manufacture, the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix being functionalized to enable immobilization on the surface, and

